

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14233 081945Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 PM-05

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5313

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 14233

BRUSSELS PASS USDEL SECRETARY

PARIS FOR MOOSE FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK, NI

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CARVER VISIT TO MAPUTO

REF: SECTO 12009

1. AT STATE RECEPTION THIS EVENING FOR MACHEL I ASKED GARBA, ALONG LINES REFTEL, WHETHER HE AND/OR OBASANJO WOULD BE WILLING URGE MACHEL TO SEE CARVER. GARBA SAID 'YOU KNOW HIM SO WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF.'

2. FORTUITOUSLY, MACHEL SUMMONED UK HICOM FALLE AND ME A FEW MOMENTS LATER AND EMBARKED ON A GOOD-HUMORED CRITIQUE OF ALLEGED ANGOLO-AMERICAN SLUGGISHNESS IN MOVING THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM TO A SOLUTION. HE STRESSED (UNCHARACTERISTICALLY?) THE NEED TO BRING THE FIGHTING TO AN END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID THE BRITISH AND THE US COULD DO IT.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 14233 081945Z

3. THIS PROVIDED FALLE AND ME WITH OUR CHANCE TO TELL MACHEL THAT DR. OWEN AND SECRETARY VANCE VERY MUCH HOPED HE WOULD AGREE TO RECEIVE CARVER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PREFERABLY WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TEN DAYS. MACHEL REPLIED SOMEWHAT AIRILY THAT HE HAD RECEIVED LETTERS FROM CALLAGHAN AND CARTER ON THE MATTER AND WAS IN COMMUNICATION

WITH BOTH CAPITALS. HE TURNED SOMEWHAT MORE INTERESTED WHEN I NOTED THAT OWEN AND VANCE HAD TALKED ABOUT THIS TODAY IN BRUSSELS AND THAT I HAD RECEIVED THEIR MESSAGE JUST A FEW HOURS BEFORE COMING TO THE RECEPTION. I SAID CARVER VERY MUCH WANTED HIS VIEWS, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE MILITARY ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE TRANSITION PERIOD. MACHEL RESPONDED WITH A REITERATION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF STOPPING THE VIOLENCE.

4. COMMENT: ON BALANCE, FALLE AND I INTERPRET MACHEL'S RESPONSE AS BASICALLY AFFIRMATIVE. I ATTRIBUTE AT LEAST PART OF HIS GUARDED ATTITUDE TO THE GAGGLE OF AMBASSADORS THAT SURROUNDED US BY THE TIME WE GOT INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER (WE WERE SPEAKING IN FRENCH), AND THERE WAS AT LEAST ONE PRESS MICROPHONE LURKING NEARBY. THE NEXT STEP MIGHT BE PROMPT FOLLOW-UP BY UK AND US AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO. WE UNDERSTAND MACHEL RETURNS TO MAPUTO FROM HERE ON MONDAY BUT WE DO NOT KNOW HIS PLANS FROM THEN ONE. GIVEN GARBA'S ATTITUDE, I DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD ATTEMPT FURTHER TO ENLIST OBASANJO'S INTERVENTION. I ANTICIPATE GARBA WILL MENTION IT TO MACHEL AND OBASANJO ANYWAY, AND I WOULD EXPECT OBASANJO TO SUPPORT THE MEETING
EASUM

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